



NEWS RELEASE
*Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska*
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July 1, 2009

United States Attorney Joe W. Stecher and the Lincoln Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release: The Honorable Richard G. Kopf, United States District Judge in Lincoln, Nebraska, on June 12, 2009, sentenced Deborah Sue Keahl to 123 months imprisonment following her conviction for robbing a bank while carrying a gun. In addition, she was ordered to serve 5 years of supervised release after her release from prison, charged a \$200 special assessment, and ordered to pay \$7,715.00 in restitution.

On October 3, 2008, the People's Choice Credit Union at 70th & Hwy 2 in Lincoln was robbed by Deborah Keahl. Keahl followed victims into the bank when it opened that morning and obtained \$6,800 from the vault. Allison Bowden was waiting in a car, and picked up Keahl after she left the bank. The money bag that was taken in the robbery concealed a dye pack which exploded outside the bank and \$5,124 was dropped and located the next day. Later that morning, police responded to a noise complaint at Allison Bowden's residence, where Keahl was staying, and arrested Bowden on an outstanding warrant. Bowden consented to a search of the apartment and police found \$215 which was wet with red edges drying in a closet. An additional \$1,289 was found soaking in liquid in pots & pans inside a kitchen cupboard. Keahl was located and arrested later that same day.

Ms. Keahl was indicted by a federal grand jury in October, 2008. Pled guilty in March 2009, and was sentenced on July 12, 2009.

Name of Defendant: Deborah Sue Keahl

AKA: Deborah Sue Forkner, Deborah Sue Gardner, Deborah Sue Rigdon, Sue Keahl

Age: 49

City of Residence: Austin, Texas

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty: Bank Robbery and Use of a firearm during a crime of violence - up to life imprisonment; \$250,000 fine; 3 years term of supervised release, and \$100 special assessment.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Lincoln, Nebraska

Location of Arrest: Lincoln, Nebraska

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: \$7,715

Others Charged in Same Scheme: None

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: 10/03/2008

Federal Arrest Date: 11/03/2008

Date Complaint Issued: N/A

Indictment Returned Date: 10/22/2008

Initial Appearance Date: 11/03/2008

Plea or Trial and Date(s): 03/20/2009

Sentencing Date: 07/01/2009

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: N/A

Assigned Magistrate Judge: David Piester

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Detained

In Continuous Custody Since: 10-3-08

Assigned District Court Judge: Richard Kopf

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: ALE